Rise in prices of coal

32. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of coal which were raised in February, 1993 have again been increased by Rs. 18 per tonne recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the percentage of this increase made this year together with its effect on prime industries like power, steel, cement etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent to the increase is Variable Dearness Allowance, announced in March, 1993 for the employees of Public Sector Undertaking payable from 1.1.1989 onwards, it became necessary to increase the price of coal in order to enable the coal companies to make these payments.

(c) The increase works out to 4.89 per cent in the average price of coal in case of Coal India Ltd. and 4.09 per cent in the case of Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.

The impact due to increase in the coal prices of Coal India Ltd. is estimated to be as under:

Power	.	1.27 paisa per KWH
Steel	.	Rs. 61.00 per tonne
Cement	.	Rs. 3.63 per tonne
Wholesale Price Index	:	0.13 percent

Privatisation of subsidiary units of CIL

33. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise certain subsidiary units of Coal India Ltd. which are running in losses for the last several years.

(b) if so, what are the names of such units together with the reasons for losses by these units.

(c) whether Government have made any attempt for the survival of these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., the two subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited, who are operating a large number of old UG mines, have been incurring heavy losses before contribution from "Coal Price Regulation Account". Following steps are being taken to reduce cost of production and increase productivity for improving the performance of coal companies.

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(ii) Control on increase in manpower through voluntary retirement scheme.

(iii) The concept of "all men all jobs" is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Improvement in the availabilty and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipment.

(v) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(vi) a number of systems improvement and managerial measures have